

Message Text

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ACTION STR-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2208

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 7915

USIAC

BONN/ROME FOR EBERLE PARTY (MESSRS. DONALDSON AND RPT. AND
DENEND

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: NEWS COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR EBERLE'S BRUSSELS VISIT

REF: BRUSSELS 7888

1. AMBASSADOR EBERLE'S ACTIVITIES IN BRUSSELS, INCLUDING HIS
NEWS CONFERENCE, RECEIVED WIDESPREAD COVERAGE IN THE BELGIAN
PRESS AND ON RADIO AND TV.

2. IN A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL, CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC LA LIBRE
BELGIQUE SAID THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM TOGETHER
WITH MR. EBERLE'S VISIT TO EUROPE GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO
"BADLY NEEDED WESTERN COOPERATION." LA LIBRE, IN A NEWS STORY,
GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE EBERLE MEETINGS WITH EC AND
BENELUX OFFICIALS EMPHASIZING HIS STATEMENT THAT THE U.S. WOULD
HAVE NO NEED TO APPLY EXPORT CONTROLS AS LONG AS THERE IS
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COOPERATION FROM ITS TRADING PARTNERS.

2. INDEPENDENT LE SOIR SUMMARIZED MR. EBERLE'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN ONE SENTENCE: " WE DO NOT INTEND TO INTRODUCE GENERAL EXPORT CONTROLS ON CEREALS, BUT WHAT WE NEED IS A ' VOLUNTARY MONITORING SYSTEM' BECAUSE CROPS IN THE U. S. WILL NOT BE AS IMPORTANT AS COULD BE EXPECTED LAST JULY. THIS IS WHAT MR. EBERLE.. SAID IN SUBSTANCE AFTER HIS TALKS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BENELUX AND THE EEC..." PAPER LISTS MEETINGS WHICH MR EBERLE HAD IN BRUSSELS, ADDING THAT "THIS VISIT, WHICH INCIDENTALLY WAS VERY FRIENDLY AS WAS UNDERLINED IN THE ENTOURAGE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE WHITE HOUSE, ONCE AGAIN REFLECTS WASHINGTON' S WISH TO KEEP THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE CONTACT WITH THE COMMUNITY. MOREOVER, MR. EBERLE DID NOT FAIL TO REMIND NEWSMEN THAT THE U.S. HAS TO PLAY A 'LEADING' ROLE IN THE SOLUTION OF THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WITH WHICH THE WORLD IS PRESENTLY CONFRONTED."

3. INFLUENTIAL CATHOLIC DE STANDAARD SAID AMBASSADOR EBERLE "EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE FORD PROGRAM WAS BEING FAVORABLY RECEIVED. HE UNDERLINED ABOVE ALL THE BIG EFFORT THE U.S. IS GOING TO UNDERTAKE TO SAVE ENERGY. HE GAVE ASSURANCE THAT WASHINGTON IS STILL NOT CONSIDERING EXPORT LIMITATIONS ON GRAIN, DESPITE RECENT ACTION TO COUNTER SPECULATIVE OR ABNORMAL PURCHASES. IF EVERY COUNTRY BUYS WHAT IT NORMALLY NEEDS, THERE IS ENOUGH FOOD, HE CONCLUDED."
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